Great start to CARDI/ITC Workshop on coconut industry development for the Caribbean

... plans to ‘refresh the entire Caribbean community with coconut water’

November 12, 2014: Wednesday 12th November, 2014 saw the hosting of the Opening Ceremony of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) Workshop on “Repositioning the Coconut Industry within nine Caribbean countries for resuscitation and sustainable development”, held at the Carlton Savannah Hotel in Trinidad. Speaking at the Session in support of the Project were Ms. Kathrin Renner, European Union Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Ian Sayers of the International Trade Centre; and Dr. Arlington Chesney, Executive Director, CARDI.

The Workshop commenced with the active representations of forty plus stakeholders from Belize Guyana; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Jamaica; Suriname; St Lucia; St Vincent and the Grenadines; and Trinidad and Tobago.

One participant noted that it is their hope that the workshop will provide all players with the ‘dimension of scope and vision for the industry’. Another virgin coconut oil producer said that the expectation was that they would ‘be able to identify international markets for their products and to be able to sustain their farms’. ‘I am happy to be part of this forum and to share the potential that we have’ said another whose hope is to ‘refresh the entire Caribbean community with coconut water’.

This Workshop follows the deliberations/decisions taken by stakeholders at the Regional Coconut Workshop which was conducted during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture held October 2013 in Guyana. The stakeholder recommendations comprised short term and long term solutions, with responses. Based on those findings, the European Commission (EC) has agreed to provide preliminary funding to prepare the industry for this resuscitation process. It is expected that the workshop will facilitate dialogue among the Regional stakeholders, the ITC (as the Project Executing Agency) and CARDI (as the Implementing Agency) and pave the way for the implementation of Phase 1 initiatives, involving activities linked to the short term stakeholder recommendations.

CARDI ... presenting the ‘facts on agriculture and research for development’.

Photo captions:

- CWS1 – Dr. Arlington Chesney, ED, CARDI as he addresses the audience
- CWS2 – members of the funding agencies (l-r Mr. Ian Sayers of the International Trade Centre; Dr. Arlington Chesney, Executive Director, CARDI, and 2nd from right - Ms. Kathrin Renner, European Union Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago)
- CWS3 – Dr. Chesney (l) in conversation with Ms. Renner of the EU Delegation
- CWS4 – members of the audience

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CARDI-Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development